

RECKLESS RALPH'S

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



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## THE WORKS OF BRACEBRIDGE HEMYNG

Part One

by W. M. Burns

For months it has been my desire to write something about an old time writer of boys tales, who for many years was a prime favorite of American as well as British lads, as one of their favorite writers. And for a considerable time was slowly compiling data, which I am sure I would never have gotten together without the fine cooperation of a friend in Wales, England.

This gentleman, whose name I am asked to withhold from this article, is also a lover of the Hemyng tales and has gone to considerable trouble, and time, to supply me with data on Hemyng's works published in England. And without his aid I never could have written this article.

My article may not contain ALL Hemyng's works. Probably will not, but will contain all available data gleaned by my Welch friend and myself. Any further data that my readers can supply will be gratefully appreciated and duly acknowledged.

Such knowledge of his early writings as I have gleaned are as follows:

One of his earlier efforts was to complete Henry Mayhew's great work titled "London Labor and London Poor," a book full of careful observation and research, in which Mr. Hemyng first brought before the public the opium smoking dens of Bluegate Fields, of which in noticing "Edwin Drood," the Academy said, "It is for Charles Dickens to declare whether he has read Bracebridge Hemyng's

fourth volume of "London Labor and Poor," the coincident or subject and treatment being remarkable." Shortly afterward, "Eton Schooldays" and "Buster Burke at Eton" appeared, to be followed by a flood of novels appearing in various periodical papers, for a long period. "Better Late Than Never," "Secrets of the Turf," "Out of the Ring," "The Favorite Scratched," "The Curate of Inveresk," "Jaspard Trenchard," "Curious Crimes," "On the Road," "Called to the Bar," "The Orange Girl," "A Brighton Mystery," "Season at Brighton," "Skittles," "The Kate Hamilton Group," "The Stockbrokers Wife," "The Stock Exchange Romance," "The Girl of the Period," "The Man of the Period," "Tales of the Franco-Prussian War," "On the Line," "Telegraph Secrets," "Danger Signal," "The Commune in London," etc.

When "The Battle of Dorking" convulsed all England with the panic of fear of invasion, Mr. Hemyng came out with "Who's Afraid," which did much to allay the excitement.

Most all of the above appeared in the sixties which about brings us up to 1871 in which Hemyng started writing his famous "Harkaway" series for Brett's "Boys of England." Brett continued the Harkaway tales for years along with the equally famous "Scapegrace" series. Even while Hemyng was in America writing for Leslie, the Harkway series was running right along in the Brett journals. It has been a matter of conjecture for many years as to who wrote the Brett series of tales while Hemyng was in America. Prominent authorities on Hemyng's writings have always disagreed more or less. But more on this angle later.

In July 1871 commenced in Bretts Boys of England, "Jack Harkaways Schooldays" (Same tale starting in Frank Leslie's "Boys and Girls Weekly" Dec. 1871) From this time on Hemingy wrote almost exclusively, tales for boys and girls.

I note from my data that an Emmett paper in 1870 published a tale by Hemingy titled, "Hark-away-Jack." Whether or not this was a tale of our "Jack Harkaway," I am unable to state. But right here I am going to list such of the Hemingy tales as appeared in the Emmett papers, to the limit of my knowledge: "Fatherless Bob" 1874, "Mischievous Matt" 1875, "Jack Harkaway in America" 1873, "Tom Troublesome" 1874, "Jack Harkaway Among the Pirates" 1878, "Jack Harkaway in the Haunt of the Pirates" 1879, "Harkaway Out West" and "Harkaway Among the Indians" 1874, "Harkaway in Search of the Mountain of Gold" 1875, "Harkaway on the Prairie" 1876, "Harkaway and the Secret of Wealth" 1876, "Billy Barlow" 1876.

The above appearing in "Young Britton," "Sons of Britannia" "The Young Englishman," etc. All had appeared previously in various of the Leslie papers over here.

Other Hemingy tales were "Left his Home; or The Young Rover" (Rollingtons Boys World, 1885), "The Doomed City" (Aldine Boys Half-Holiday Library, 1887), "Lightning Charlie" (Comrades 1891) "Ballerat Bill; or, Fighting the Bushrangers," and "Ballerat Bill's Rowdy Dowdy Boys" (Aldines First Rate Pocket Libraries 1894) "Jack Harkaway the Third" (Bretts Jack Harkaways Journal 1893) "Jack Harkaway in the Life Guards" (Newnes British Boys 1896) "Jack Harkaway in the Transvaal" and "Jack Harkaway War Scouts," (Up To Date Boys 1899-1901) "The Brigade of Tarragona," "The Naval Cadets" "The Slave Dealers Revenge," all three said to be sequels to "Jack Harkaway the Third," and appeared in the later issues of Boys of England and the last issues of Boys of the Empire. This list to the best of my knowledge is what appeared in England under Hemingys pen. There might have been many more such as "Will Wilding" (The Boys of St. Aldates) "Too Fast to Last," "Larry O'Keefe" etc. But if so my data is not complete. But

these tales will be mentioned later anyway as they appeared over here in various publications.

I have not touched on the long list of "Harkaways" and "Scapegrace" tales in full. I do not consider it necessary as both British and American lovers of Hemingy are familiar with the long list.

After writing the first three or four tales (Harkaways) for Brett Hemingy came to America (1873) and started writing for Leslie (Leslie had "pirated" all three-four of these tales previously) yet Brett kept right on publishing other Harkaway tales. Who wrote them has always been an open question. Brett himself claimed to be the originator and early author of the Harkaways.

At the conclusion of the Brett series of Harkaway tales (Jack Harkaway and His Boy Tinker) the following statement appeared.

"To invent the plot and incidents has been a labor of love on the part of Mr. E. J. Brett," which would lead one to believe that Brett himself was author of the Harkaways. To refute this statement we can offer the following as evidence: While Hemingy was in America writing for Leslie, Emmett was publishing the same tales, through some arrangement with Leslie and Hemingy, or both.

And in an article written by Mr. Patrick Mulhall titled, "More about Jack Harkaway" published in Mr. Jas. Parks "Vanity Fair" under date of Jan.-Feb. 1927 we find the following letter as part of the article.

I take the liberty of quoting from Mr. Mulhalls article as follows:

Gilsey House Hotel  
March 25, 1874

My Dear George Emmett:

Excuse me for troubling you on a matter which you may deem of small importance, but I wish to prevent those English young gentlemen, who have been, and are now, my readers, from being imposed upon. I am the sole author of the "Harkaway" and the "Scapegrace" stories. The only boys story I have written since my arrival in America is "Jack Harkaway in America," which is being published by your well known firm. Will you kindly take steps to let the boys know this, and to beware of imitations of my story?

I am, my dear Emmett,  
Yours very truly,  
Bracebridge Heming.

The foregoing letter was published in No. 54 of "The Young Englishman," bearing date of April 25, 1874. It was repeated in the Oct. 3rd, 1874 issue." This would seem to call Bretts bluff about being the originator of Harkaway. As further evidence we quote as follows from Ralph Rollington's "History of Boys Journals." "Heming and myself (Rollington) were standing outside the "Boys of England" office, when we received a friendly tap on the shoulder, and on looking round, were agreeably surprised to find it was our mutual friend, George Emmett. It will interest those who care to know, how the characters of "Captain Jack," "Jack Harkaway" and "Ralph Rollington" were created. I asked Heming what caused him to write "Jack Harkaway" and was he a real, or imaginary character? "Well, old boy," he said, readjusting his eye-glass, "I guess you can put it down as a bit of both. Reminiscences of one of my dear old college chums, a dare devil sort of a fellow, who was always up to some kind of mischief had much to do with it. It was really he who gave me the first idea of the character, then when I christened him (metaphorically speaking) I began to write him up. New ideas began to flash across my mind so quickly, that what was then a mere shadow gradually blossomed into a reality, something after the style of Pygmalion and Galatea."

So if we can believe Rollington, and personally I do, we may be assured that Heming was the sole author and originator of the Harkaways. Some secret arrangement might have been in effect with Brett for a continuation of the series while he (Heming) was writing for Leslie. All the assertions and denials between Brett and Heming might have been simply a clever advertising stunt. Well fellows, your guess is as good as mine.

The late Frank Jay (Vanity Fair July 1926) states that after Heming returned to England he wrote the "Scapegrace" series for young men of Great Britain. I cannot agree with Mr. Jay in this, as these "Scapegrace" tales were being published in the Leslie paper as early as 1874. Possibly Heming wrote some of them for Y. M. of G. B. before coming to America.

"Dick Lightheart; or, The Scapegrace at Sea" appeared in Leslie's "Boys of America, Feb. 1874 and "At School" appeared even earlier in Leslie's Boys and Girls Weekly.) This proves that they were written before Heming return to England.

Mr. Jay in another article states his belief that Heming wrote the "Ned Nimble" series. Other authorities take a different view, Well, I never read one of the series myself, so am unable to offer my own humble opinion.

In a fine article written by Mr. Charles W. Daniel, for Aug. 1943 Roundup, titled, "Collectors and the English Penny Dreadful." I learn of another book written by Heming, titled, "Brigands of the Sea; or, The Sailor Highwayman." Article does not state by whom published.

—End of Part One—

#### PAWNEE BILL

NOTE: The following article is based on matter written by Jason Stevens, one of the Payne Boomers.

Gordon W. Lillie, better known as Pawnee Bill, was the hero in many of the old time tales which appeared on the Newsstands in the late 90's and the early 1900's. He was the last of the Oklahoma Boomers. It was said of him that "he probably did more for the preservation of the buffalo than any other man." He was born in Bloomington, Ill. about eighty-three years ago. He finished high school, and after six months of bookkeeping in his father's flour mill, started out for the Indian Territory at the age of sixteen. He hunted buffalo with a trapper, whom he had met in Wichita, Kansas. After one winter of this work, he began teaching school for the Indian agency, which was situated at what is now Pawnee, Oklahoma, where also Mr. Lillie's "Old Indian Town and Trading Post" museum is located. As a teacher of Indian children he formed lasting friendships with the Pawnee Indians. His home — a very beautiful place, and the buffalo ranch established by him is in the edge of Pawnee, at what is called Blue Hawk Point. The ranch and the home cost 75,000 dollars. He led the famous Payne boomer colony in the Oklahoma Run on Big Turkey Creek just fifty miles from Pawnee, April 22, 1889.

There were several other Bills in and around the Indian Agency, so in order to distinguish him from the rest, he came to be called "Pawnee Bill." This name being used to signify that "Bill" who was working with the Pawnee Indian children as teacher. It was while he was teaching these children that he let his hair grow long.

Buffalo Bill, (Col. Wm. F. Cody) employed him to get together a group of Indians and travel with him in the Cody Wild West Show. He later organized his own wild-west show and continued with it until he retired in 1913.

The Pawnees were said to be the "fiercest of the plains warriors." But Pawnee Bill made many a friend among them. He established the town of Pawnee, Oklahoma, which is a thriving and enterprising little city today. In his Wild West Show he travelled all over the United States, and was feted in European capitals. He organized the Boomer colony in 1888 at the invitation of the Wichita, Kansas, Board of Trade, after the older organization founded by Capt. David L. Payne, had sagged after Payne's death. He organized a group of over 3,000 homeseekers, which he called "The Pawnee Bill Colonization Company of Boomers." Before he died he was Vice President of the Fern Oil Corp., president of the United States Highway 64 Association, National supervisor of the Boy Scouts of America National supervisor of the Mounted Troops of America, etc. He has written and collaborated in writing, "Thirty Years Among the Pawnee Indians," and "Oklahoma."

There are five men, according to Fred E. Sutton, one of the Payne Boomers, to whom Oklahomans owe their wonderful state. They are, Capt. David L. Payne, (Cimarron Scout), Capt. Wm. L. Couch, Sidney Clark, Samuel Crocker, and Gordon W. Lillie.

There was much excitement when the Oklahoma "Run" was made in the spring of 1889. Thousands of Boomers under the leadership of Pawnee Bill and Captain Couch were gathered along the entire length of the north line ready for the run. They were a restless and wild bunch of people. In the run that followed the gathering on the line, Capt. Couch staked his claim on the spot that is now Oklahoma City, and became its first Mayor. Pawnee

Bil staked no claim, but soon after went out again with his show.

—W. B. McCafferty.

## NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph Cummings

Fellows, I am getting a bunch of stickers made up, and need your zone number for the part of the city you live in, so please drop me a penny post card, with your zone no. on it. Thanks.

Why not help us to get something for Gil Patten to remember him by. So far, we've only collected \$15.00 towards a plaque to be put in the library of either where he was born, or where he started to write the famous Tip Top Library, later Tip Top Weekly, the great Frank & Dick Merriwell stories. So please fellows, what do you say, all together now, and we may publish everyone's name in the Roundup later on, so what do you fellows say???

Frisco Bert Couch and wife spent their vacation in Death Valley last fall.

George Barton says — The Saturday Library seems to have been either a continuation of, or to have run at the same time with the American Library for the same stories ran in each Library. In going through a run of Boys of New York and The Golden Weekly, I find quite a few serials as well as short stories which Tousey borrowed without permission, along with the illustrations from the English papers and have one of his authors write a story around them. Also in comparing stories which came out in Boys of New York, Young Men of America, etc., with the same stories in Pluck & Luck, I find that Tousey changed the names of the authors when he ran them in P & L. For instance, Pluck & Luck #191. The Coral City, by Richard R. Montgomery was authored in Boys of New York, by J. G. Bradley, and 199, The Floating Gold Mine, by Capt. Thomas Wilson, was originally in B. of N. Y. as by C. Little. The original title of #222 Wide Awake was "Stump and his Friends," Not Stirrup as mentioned in a former Roundup.

A little mistake in Bro. Cordier's article, so let's keep the data straight as we all make mistakes. Wide Awake Library No. 1 was Tom Brown's

Schooldays, not Claude Duval, as C. Duval was No. 91 and the series ended with "The Death of Claude Duval in No. 118 in Wide Awake.

Bro. Cordier may have been thinking of the DeWitts Claude Duval Series, instead of Tousey's Wide Awake Library.

How many addresses did Frank Tousey have, also Street & Smith, both seemed to be great for changing addresses.

Last of all, our President of the United States Franklin D. Roosevelt, died April 12th and Ernie Pyle, the war correspondent a short while later. God Bless them both.

We hear that Earl Farmer is active again.



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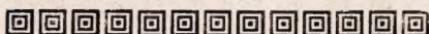
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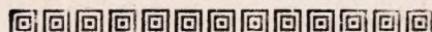
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Returning to Boston in the fall, I decided to try and collect some novels and — not knowing of The Roundup — had several classified advertisements printed in the Sunday edition of a number of metropolitan papers. Fortune seemed to favor me for among the few replies was one from Ralph Smith. From him I made my first purchase of novels and became a subscriber to The Roundup.

Tip-Tops appeal to me and because of the assistance of Ralph Cummings, Ray Caldwell and one or two others, I now have about 550 different issues, all obtained at a very reasonable figure.

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